but the task of direction and initiative naturally fell to the former.

When Mr. Hayne, the new envoy from South Carolina, arrived in Washington, the secession of the six States above-mentioned was in progress, and their leading men in Washington were anxious to complete the formation of the new government before the issue between South Carolina and the Washington authorities should be too sharply drawn. They therefore induced Hayne to postpone delivering his credentials and his demand for the surrender of Fort Sumter until the close of the month of January. In their letter to him[1] they seem to entertain a hope of a peaceful settlement of all existing difficulties,[3] based on the public declarations of the President that he had no power to " coerce a State." But it is not probable that they looked forward beyond the unopposed establishment of the Southern Confederacy.

It is not necessary to go into the details of the correspondence between these Senators and Mr. Hayne,[3] between them and the Secretary of War, and between Mr. Hayne and the President and Secretary.

Mr. Hayne finally, on January 31st, presented his demand for the surrender of the fort.[4] He put his case on the ground that South Carolina was an independent power, <*le facto*, at any rate;

that her cession to the United States Government of the land

[1] Crawford, p. 219.
[2] *Cf.* Davis's *Rise and Fall*, vol. II. p. 227.
[3] For an able letter, reviewing the situation and the correspondence, by Judge Magrath, Secretary of State of South Carolina, see Crawford, p. 222 *et seq.*
[4] Crawford, p. 226.